

Message Text

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64

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 NASA-01 OES-03 SAJ-01 /087 W

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R 281745Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8894

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY CONCERNING CCD

REF: PARIS 1902

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH US, MISTRAL (QUAI OFFICE OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT) DESCRIBED CURRENT STATUS OF FRENCH POLICY CONCERNING CCD. HE SAID THAT, AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT TIME, FRANCE HAS NO INTENTION OF JOINING THE

CCD. THE GOF HAS GENERAL FEELING THAT WORK OF THE CCD IS LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THE REAL PROBLEM THAT REQUIRE "ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT" ATTENTION: NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS AMONG THE FIVE MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS. MISTRAL THOUGHT THAT THE FOUR YEAR RECORD OF CCD INACTION ON THE SUBJECT OF CONTROLLING UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING WAS A GOOD MEASURE OF THE INABILITY OF THE CCD TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE CENTRAL PROBLEM OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT.

2. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL ISSUES THAT POSED PROBLEMS TO FRENCH MEMBERSHIP IN THE CCD IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY MODERATED. FOR EXAMPLE, FRANCE NEED NO LONGER FEAR THAT IT WOULD BE A TARGET FOR GENERAL CONDEMNATION BY CCD DELEGATES BECAUSE OF ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTING, GIVEN ITS DECISION TO CONDUCT FUTURE TESTS UNDERGROUND. MOREOVER, HISTORIC FRENCH HANG-UP OVER US-SOVIET CO-CHAIRMEN -- WHICH IN GAULLIST TERMS WAS EQUATED TO "CONDOMINIUM" -- APPEARS TO HAVE EASED SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF GISCARD AND THE CONSEQUENT DOWN-PLAYING OF THE MORE STRIDENT ASPECTS OF GAULLIST RHETORIC AND SENSITIVITIES.

3. COMMENT: BASED ON THIS AND OTHER REPORTS (E.G., REFTEL) IT SEEMS TO US THAT WHILE THE ROAD IS MORE OPEN THAN IN PAST YEARS FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN CCD MATTERS, THERE IS NO HARD EVIDENCE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE FRENCH WILL OVERCOME THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE CCD IS MORE A MECHANISM TO AVOID NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT RATHER THAN TO ACHIEVE IT. THEREFORE, THEY WILL KEEP THEIR DISTANCE FROM THE GENEVA TALKS.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DISARMAMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS10768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750149-0089
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750411/aaaaakdi.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 1902
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH POLICY CONCERNING CCD
TAGS: PARM, FR, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006